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Satellite Committee

Services Division

At the meetings of 22 and 29 May 1957, the Committee discussed items of current interest. In the communications field, there has been an exchange of television programs between Czechoslovakia and East Germany. These programs were transmitted in East Germany via a microwave radio relay system. The system extends from the East German border to Prague and eastward to Ostrova. An additional link is soon to be established between Prague and Bratislava. [REDACTED] S/COM)

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CIA now has a copy of the Hungarian Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (Statistikai Közlemények), numbers 1 and 2 for 1956 and number 1 for 1957. This bulletin contains statistical information on such categories as demography, industry, transportation, trade, investments and plan fulfillment. [REDACTED] A/P) 25X1A9a

On 21 May 1957, Reichsbahn coal reserves were reported to have reached a level sufficient for about 22 days of operation. This is some four times the 4-6 day reserve kept on hand in recent years. The reserve itself is not viewed with alarm by S/TR, although it is being watched closely in conjunction with related transportation developments. The reason for the build-up of the reserve is unknown, but speculation includes: (1) East Germany does not want to be caught short of coal as it was in the Fall of 1956 when Poland cut off its coal shipments to East Germany, (2) The mild winter and spring eased the tight coal situation in East Germany, (3) Imports of Polish and Soviet bituminous (particularly the latter) coal have increased in recent months.

S/TR doubts the value of the Reichsbahn coal reserves as an indicator since the Reichsbahn normally has in its physical possession sufficient coal to support an invasion of the West. [REDACTED] S/TR)

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